

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512



December 21, 2001

Mr. Bob Lippman
Construction Site Manager
Blythe Energy Project
P.O. Box 1210
Blythe, CA 92226

SUBJECT: Approval of Request to Add 10 Acres to the Site of the Blythe Energy Project (99-AFC-8C)

Dear Mr. Lippman:

California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) staff have reviewed and analyzed the petition, submitted on October 25, 2001, on behalf of Blythe Energy LLC by Mr. Scott Galati, requesting an additional 10 acres of land for the Blythe Energy Project (BEP) site for a temporary construction laydown area. The petition proposes to change Condition of Certification BIO-12 of the BEP Commission Decision. The revised condition increases the amount of funds required to compensate for the additional 10 acres of disturbed habitat. Existing conditions of certification shall apply to this additional acreage, and existing plans such as storm water pollution prevention and erosion control plans, must be updated to include the new acreage.

As directed by Governor's Executive Order D-25-01, concerning post-certification amendments, we have expedited review of this proposed project modification because statutes and implementing regulations that normally apply to review and approval of this amendment have been suspended. Energy Commission staff have concluded that this modification has no potential for adverse environmental or public health and safety impacts. Therefore, your request is approved.

The following is the revised language of Condition of Certification of BIO-12 that specifies the revised amount of habitat compensation funds that is required (new wording shown double underlined, deleted wording shown with strikeout).

BIO-12 To compensate for permanent impact to desert tortoise habitat, the project owner shall provide compensation funds in the amount of ~~\$92,580~~ \$104,580 to the Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee for the improvement or acquisition of desert tortoise habitat in the Chuckwalla Bench area. The compensation funds include land or conservation purchase costs and endowment funds for administration, management, maintenance, monitoring, operation and research costs.

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There is no change to the Condition BIO-12 verification section. The verification section for Condition BIO-1 is revised to reflect the new total project acreage of 86 acres.

A copy of this letter will be posted on the Energy's Commission website at www.energy.ca.gov, and we will file a California Environmental Quality Act Notice of Exemption with the State Clearinghouse.

If you have any questions, please contact Steve Munro, Compliance Project Manager, at (916) 654-3936, or by e-mail at smunro@energy.state.ca.us.

Sincerely,

[Original Signed By:]
ROBERT L. THERKELSEN, Deputy Director
Systems Assessment and
Facilities Siting

cc: Jim Brownell